

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 92559-43015

Title: WORSHIP SERVICES AT REMOTE/FIELD SITES IN LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT (LIC)

Operation/Exercise Name: MARFOR PROMOTE LIBERTY      Observed: 13 Jun 1990

Originator: COMMARFOR PANAMA

POC: LTCOL FAWCETT    Commercial: (919)451-2620    DSN: 4842620

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

The opportunity for worship must always be provided by Command Chaplain whenever and wherever Marines are deployed, and this is especially true even though it may be more difficult at remote/field sites in Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) environments.

6. () DISCUSSION:

7. (%) LESSON LEARNED:

The opportunity for worship must always be provided by Command Chaplain whenever and wherever Marines are deployed, and this is especially true even though it may be more difficult at remote/field sites in Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) environments.

6. (U) DISCUSSION: Many factors must be considered when delivering Worship Services to remote/field positions in a LIC Area of Operations (AO).

a. (U) Marines will man positions throughout an AO in a variety of personnel strength -- from re-enforced platoons to 4-6 man units.

b. (U) These Marine units may be located in contrasting places. Marine Forces Panama (MARFORPM) personnel manned field sites, town buildings, security positions, listening/observation posts, tent cities, hootches, etc.

c. (U) These positions may be such distances apart that conducting all Worship Services on the appropriate Sabbath day may not be possible. MARFORPM conducted operations and/or

manned permanent positions as many as eight different locations at the same time.

d. (U) In order to provide Worship Services for Marines and sailors at all remote/field locations, a faith group Lay Reader and/or the Chaplain had to either accompany the unit as it maneuvered or be transported to the various locations of the units.

e. (U) Both the day of and also the time for Worship Services must be scheduled based on the unit's regular patrols, special operations, and/or unexpected response actions. For example, Worship Services were conducted on some Sundays by the MARFORPM Chaplain at 0900, 1130, 1430, 1600, 1730 and 1900; then other Sabbath Services had to be held on Saturday or on Monday.

f. (U) Utilizing "secure voice" communications channels, the Chaplain should schedule the evening before, and reconfirm the morning of, his intended Worship Service times for each unit. This not only alerts the Marines that the Chaplain is coming, but allows the unit to inform the Chaplain if unexpected operations require that the Worship Service time be changed. Once just before the MARFORPM Chaplain was to move from one town in which Marines were positioned to another unit, the latter communicated that its Marines were being called away from their position on an unexpected mission.

g. (U) Holy Communion (i.e., the Eucharist or Lord's Supper) should be celebrated at every Catholic Mass and Protestant Worship Service, in the field or at remote locations.

7. (U) LESSONS LEARNED: When a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) or Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) has troops deployed in the field and to remote positions, especially in LIC environments, planning and coordination are essential in delivering Worship Services to all Marine remote sites. Even if this must be accomplished over one or two days, it must be accomplished not only for the freedom and opportunity for Marines and sailors to worship, but also for the morale and encouragement from the Chaplain by worshiping and visiting his Marines in remote field locations. With the proper foresight and planning, both the logistics/transportation requirements and day/time schedule can be arranged on the Sabbath or the day before/after, so that all Marines and sailors have the opportunity to worship.

8.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That deployed Chaplains, at the beginning of every week, coordinate with the MAGTF CO/XO, S-3 Officer, and S-4 Officer to ensure operations schedules and all necessary logistical support are arranged so their Marines in remote sites and field locations have the weekly opportunity to worship according to their faith.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None stated.

\* \* \* \* \*